Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W

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R 241215Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6103

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 1186

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS APRIL 25 $\,$

\$EF: LISBON 1055 (DTG 181456Z FEB 76)

- 1. FOLLOWING FEB 23 MEETING, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD:
- -- ADVISED PRESIDENT TO SET LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS FOR APRIL 25;
- -- REVIEWED PROGRESS OF LATEST NEGOTIATION WITH ARMED FORCES

 $MOVEMENT\ (AFM)-PARTIES\ PACT;$

-- NOTED WITH CONCERN THE GROWING ACTIVITY OF "CERTAIN ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMOCRATIC AND REACTIONARY SECTORS"; AND

- -- HEARD A REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MADEIRA.
- 2. PACT AND ELECTION TIMING: RC SPOKESMAN CPT
 SOUSA E CASTRO TOLD PRESS FEB 23 THAT ALL THE DIFFICULTIES
 WITH THE PACT HAD BEEN OVERCOME IN WEEKEND MEETINGS
 WITH THE PPD AND THE PS. HE PREDICTED THE PACT WOULD
 BE SIGNED FEB 24 OR 25. SOUSA E CASTRO SAID THAT
 CERTAIN DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN PUT ASIDE FOR CONSTITUENT
 ASSEMBLY TO RESOLVE. HE ADDED THAT PPD HAD AGREED TO
 LEAVE TIMING OF ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND RC TO DECREE,
 AND THAT "SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS NEED NOT BE HELD ON THE SAME
 DAY;" I.E., "PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS COULD FOLLOW LEGISLATIVE

ELECTIONS BY 15-35 DAYS."

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT MUST DECREE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SIXTY DAYS IN ADVANCE -- OR BY FEBRUARY 26 FOR APRIL 25 ELECTIONS. FORMAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL NOT BEGIN,

HOWEVER, UNTIL 21 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION. PPD SOURCE PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THAT RC HAD BACKED PPD POSITION FOR CLOSELY SPACED ELECTIONS, AND THAT PPD WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO PACT IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS.

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